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or failure to meet such other requirements do not adversely affect the operation of the Apple Market Loss Assistance Payment Program III and do not violate statutory limitations on the program.

(f) Payment applications and related documents not executed in accordance with the terms and conditions determined and announced by CCC, including any purported execution outside of the dates authorized by CCC, shall be null and void unless the Executive Vice President, CCC, shall otherwise allow.

§ 1470.203 Definitions.

The definitions set forth in this section shall apply to the Apple Market Loss Assistance Payment Program III as follows:

Administrator means the Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

Apple operation means any person or group of persons who, as a single unit as determined by CCC, produces and markets apples in the United States.

Application means the Apple Market Loss Assistance Payment Application.

Application period means the period beginning September 30, 2002, and ending on November 8, 2002, for producers to apply for program benefits.

CCC means the Commodity Credit Corporation.

County committee means the FSA county committee.

County office means the local FSA office.

Department or USDA means the United States Department of Agriculture.

Deputy Administrator means the Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs, Farm Service Agency, or a designee.

Eligible production means apples that were produced and harvested in the United States anytime during the 2000 crop year, up to a maximum of 5 million pounds per apple operation.

Farm Service Agency or FSA means the Farm Service Agency of the Department.

Payment pounds means the pounds of apples for which an operation is eligible to be paid under this subpart.

Person means any individual, group of individuals, partnership, corporation, estate, trust association, cooperative, or other business enterprise or

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other legal entity who is, or whose members are, a citizen of, or legal resident alien or aliens in the United States.

Secretary means the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture or any other officer or employee of the Department who has been delegated the authority to act in the Secretary's stead with respect to the program established in this subpart.

United States means the 50 States of the United States of America, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Verifiable production records means evidence that is used to substantiate the amount of harvested production reported and that can be verified by CCC through an independent source.

§ 1470.204 Time and method of application.

(a) Apple producers may obtain an application, in person, by mail, by telephone, or by facsimile from any county FSA office. In addition, applicants may download a copy of the application at <http://www.sc.egov.usda.gov>.

(b) A request for benefits under this subpart must be submitted on a completed application as defined in § 1470.203. Applications should be submitted to the FSA county office serving the county where the apple operation is located but, in any case, must be received by the FSA county office by the close of business on November 8, 2002. Applications not received by the close of business on such date will be disapproved as not having been timely filed and the apple operation will not be eligible for benefits under this program.

(c) All persons who share in the risk of an apple operation's total production must certify to the information on the application before the application will be considered complete.

(d) The apple operation requesting benefits under this subpart must certify to the accuracy and truthfulness of the information provided in their application. All information provided is subject to verification by CCC. Refusal to allow CCC or any other agency of the Department of Agriculture to verify any information provided will

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result in a denial of eligibility. Furnishing the information is voluntary; however, without it program benefits will not be approved. Providing a false certification to the government is punishable by imprisonment, fines and other penalties.

§ 1470.205 Eligibility.

(a) To be eligible to receive a payment under this subpart, an apple operation must:

(1) Have produced and harvested apples in the United States at some time during the 2000 crop year;

(2) Apply for payments during the application period according to §1470.204.

(b) Payments may be made for losses suffered by an eligible producer who is now deceased or is a dissolved entity if a representative who currently has authority to enter into a contract for the producer signs the application for payment. Proof of authority to sign for the deceased producer or dissolved entity must be provided. If a producer is now a dissolved general partnership or joint venture, all members of the general partnership or joint venture at the time of dissolution, or their duly authorized representatives, must sign the application for payment.

(c) An apple operation must submit a timely application and comply with all other terms and conditions of this subpart and instructions issued by CCC, as well as comply with those instructions that are otherwise contained in the application to be eligible for benefits under this subpart.

(d) All payments under this subpart are subject to the availability of funds.

§ 1470.206 Proof of production.

(a) Apple operations selected for spot checks by CCC must, in accordance with instructions issued by the Deputy Administrator, provide adequate proof of the apples produced and harvested during the 2000 crop year to verify production. The documentary evidence of apple production claimed for payment shall be reported to CCC together with any supporting documentation under paragraph (b) of this section. The 2000 crop year production must be documented using actual records.

(b) All persons involved in such apple operation producing apples during the

2000 crop year must provide any available supporting documents to assist the county FSA office in verifying the operation's apple production indicated on the Application. Examples of supporting documentation include, but are not limited to: picking, packout, and payroll records, RMA records, sales documents, copies of receipts, ledgers of income, or any other documents available to confirm the production and production history of the apple operation. In the event that supporting documentation is not presented to the county FSA office requesting the information, apple operations will be determined ineligible for benefits.

§ 1470.207 Availability of funds.

The total available program funds shall be \$94 million as provided by §10105 of Public Law 107-171 except as determined appropriate by the Executive Vice President of CCC and authorized by law. Any discretion in such matters shall be the discretion of the Executive Vice President alone.

§ 1470.208 Applicant payment quantity.

(a) The applicants payment quantity of apples will be determined by CCC, based on the production of the 2000 crop of apples that was produced and harvested by each operation.

(b) The maximum quantity of apples for which producers are eligible for a payment under this subpart shall be 5 million pounds per operation. The Deputy Administrator shall determine what may be considered a distinct operation and that decision shall be final.

§ 1470.209 Payment rate and apple operation payment.

(a) A national per-pound payment rate will be determined after the conclusion of the application period, and shall be calculated, to the extent practicable, by dividing the \$94 million available for the Apple Market Loss Assistance Payment Program III by, for all applicants taken together, the total pounds of eligible production approved for payment.

(b) Each eligible apple operation's payment will be calculated by multiplying the payment rate determined in paragraph (a) of this section by the apple operation's eligible production.